

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Peter Wiedemuth et al.                      Art Unit : 2836  
Serial No. : 10/743,345                                      Examiner : Daniel J. Cavallari  
Filed : December 23, 2003                                  Confirmation No.: 4711  
Notice of Allowance Date: December 8, 2008  
Title : MODULAR CURRENT SUPPLY

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE**

In response to the Notice of Allowance mailed December 8, 2008, enclosed are a completed issue fee transmittal form PTOL 85b and Comments on Examiner's Reasons for Allowance. The fees in the amount of \$1810 for the issue fee (\$1510) and the publication fee (\$300) are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply all charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 15540-0019001.

Respectfully submitted,

/Diana DiBerardino/

Diana DiBerardino  
Reg. No. 45,653

Date: February 9, 2009

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# **PART B – FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail**

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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)

26161

7590

12/08/2008

**FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.  
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,345	12/23/2003	Peter Wiedemuth	15540-0019001	4711

TITLE OF INVENTION: MODULAR CURRENT SUPPLY

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$1810	03/08/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
CAVALLARI, DANIEL J.	2836	

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number** is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1. Fish & Richardson P.C.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

**HUETTINGER Elektronik GmbH & Co. KG**

**Freiburg, Germany**

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ individual ☒ corporation or other private group entity ☐ government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

☒ Issue Fee  
☒ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 06-1050.

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant, a registered agent or, the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(Authorized Signature) /Diana DiBerardino/

Typed or Printed Name Diana DiBerardino

(Date) February 9, 2009

Registration No. 45,653

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicant recognizes that in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 1302.14, the Examiner's reasons for allowance need not set forth all of the details as to why the claims are allowed. In this application, applicant does not concede that the Examiner's stated reasons for allowance are the only reasons for which the claims are allowable. Furthermore, the claims may be patentable for other reasons.

Additionally, each of the independent claims recites distinct features and therefore each may be allowable for different reasons and not just for the reasons notes at page 3 of the Notice.

In particular, neither U.S. Patent No. 6,211,581 (Farrant), U.S. Patent No. 5,764,504 (Brand), nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests a current supply unit having separate and distinct current supply modules each having its own control receptacle, where the current supply modules are connected such that the current supply unit has a single output connection that provides a maximum output power that is greater than the maximum output power of its individual current supply modules, as recited in independent claim 1 and as similarly recited in independent claims 24 and 42.

Farrant is deficient in describing this subject matter, as applicant addressed in the reply of September 29, 2008.

Moreover, Brand does not remedy the failure of Farrant to describe or suggest this subject matter. The Examiner points to Fig. 1 of Brand as showing a "current supply system wherein plural modules are provided that form a single output that is greater than the maximum output power of the individual modules." Fig. 1 of Brand shows a computer power system having AC/DC input power 50, a DC bus 40, and one or more DC/DC converters 30. However, Brand never describes or suggests that each of the DC/DC converters 30 includes its own control receptacle or that the DC/DC converters 40 are connected such that the computer power system

has a single output connection that provides a maximum output power that is greater than the maximum output power of its individual DC/DC converters 30.

The other independent claims may be allowable for reasons other than the ones discussed above. For example, independent claim 14 recites a current supply system for a plasma gas discharge application. The current supply system includes one or more current supply units each having a plurality of current supply modules each having an input terminal, an output terminal, and a control receptacle, the current supply modules connected such that each current supply unit has a maximum output power that is greater than the maximum output power of its individual current supply modules; a control unit connected to one of the control receptacles and movable to any of the control receptacles of the other current supply modules of the current supply unit; and a data connection connecting all the current supply modules of the current supply unit to the control unit such that the control unit is able to control all of the current supply modules of the current supply unit through connection to any one control receptacle of the current supply modules of the current supply unit. Each current supply module includes a measuring device for measuring a current supply module output quantity and wherein measuring signals of the current supply modules are supplied to the control unit of the current supply unit in parallel via the data connection.

Independent claim 22 recites a current supply system for a plasma gas discharge application, the current supply system including one or more current supply units. Each current supply unit includes a plurality of current supply modules each having an input terminal, an output terminal, and a control receptacle, the current supply modules connected such that each current supply unit has a maximum output power that is greater than the maximum output power of its individual current supply modules; a control unit connected to one of the control receptacles and movable to any of the control receptacles of the other current supply modules of the current supply unit; a data connection connecting all the current supply modules of the current supply unit to the control unit such that the control unit is able to control all of the current supply modules of the current supply unit through connection to any one control receptacle of the current supply modules of the current supply unit; and an output electrical conductor for electrically connecting the current supply modules of the current supply unit at an output side. The output electrical conductor electrically connects the output terminals of two neighboring current supply modules and wherein the input terminal includes a plurality of connectors that

correspond to a number of phases of a power line connection, and the output terminal includes two connectors, which are disposed in different conductor planes, and through which the conductors may be connected to corresponding connectors of neighboring current supply modules.

Independent claim 23 recites a current supply system for a plasma gas discharge application, the current supply system including one or more current supply units. Each current supply unit includes a plurality of current supply modules each having an input terminal, an output terminal, and a control receptacle, the current supply modules connected such that each current supply unit has a maximum output power that is greater than the maximum output power of its individual current supply modules; a control unit connected to one of the control receptacles and movable to any of the control receptacles of the other current supply modules of the current supply unit; a data connection connecting all the current supply modules of the current supply unit to the control unit such that the control unit is able to control all of the current supply modules of the current supply unit through connection to any one control receptacle of the current supply modules of the current supply unit; an output electrical conductor for electrically connecting the current supply modules of the current supply unit at an output side; wherein the output electrical conductor electrically connects the output terminals of two neighboring current supply modules; and insulative distribution elements for connecting the conductors with the terminals, wherein the distribution elements each comprise receptacles for receiving ends of the conductors.

Independent claim 34 recites a current supply system for a plasma gas discharge application, the current supply system having one or more current supply units. Each current supply unit includes a plurality of substantially similar power converter modules having an input terminal, an output terminal, and a control receptacle, the power converter modules connected such that each current supply unit has a maximum output power that is greater than the maximum output power of its individual power converter modules; a control unit connected to one of the control receptacles and movable to any of the control receptacles of the other power converter modules of the current supply unit; a data connection connecting all the power converter modules of the current supply unit to the control unit such that the control unit is able to control all of the power converter modules of the current supply unit through connection to any one control receptacle of the power converter modules of the current supply unit; and an

output electrical conductor for electrically connecting the power converter modules of the current supply unit at an output side. The output electrical conductor electrically connects the output terminals of two neighboring power converter modules, wherein each power converter module includes a measuring device for measuring a power converter module output quantity and wherein the measuring signals of the power converter modules are supplied to the control unit of the current supply unit in parallel via the data connection.

Independent claim 40 recites a current supply system for a plasma gas discharge application. The current supply system includes one or more current supply units. Each current supply unit includes a plurality of substantially similar power converter modules having an input terminal, an output terminal, and a control receptacle, the power converter modules connected such that each current supply unit has a maximum output power that is greater than the maximum output power of its individual power converter modules; a control unit connected to one of the control receptacles and movable to any of the control receptacles of the other power converter modules of the current supply unit; a data connection connecting all the power converter modules of the current supply unit to the control unit such that the control unit is able to control all of the power converter modules of the current supply unit through connection to any one control receptacle of the power converter modules of the current supply unit; and an output electrical conductor for electrically connecting the power converter modules of the current supply unit at an output side. The output electrical conductor electrically connects the output terminals of two neighboring power converter modules and wherein the input terminal includes a plurality of connectors that correspond to a number of phases of a power line connection, and the output terminal includes two connectors, which are disposed in different conductor planes, and through which the conductors may be connected to corresponding connectors of neighboring power converter modules.

Independent claim 41 recites a current supply system for a plasma gas discharge application, the current supply system including one or more current supply units. Each current supply unit includes a plurality of substantially similar power converter modules having an input terminal, an output terminal, and a control receptacle, the power converter modules connected such that each current supply unit has a maximum output power that is greater than the maximum output power of its individual power converter modules; a control unit connected to one of the control receptacles and movable to any of the control receptacles of the other power

converter modules of the current supply unit; a data connection connecting all the power converter modules of the current supply unit to the control unit such that the control unit is able to control all of the power converter modules of the current supply unit through connection to any one control receptacle of the power converter modules of the current supply unit; an output electrical conductor for electrically connecting the power converter modules of the current supply unit at an output side; wherein the output electrical conductor electrically connects the output terminals of two neighboring power converter modules; and insulative distribution elements for connecting the conductors with the terminals, wherein the distribution elements each comprise receptacles for receiving ends of the conductors.

The cited references fail to describe or suggest the combination of features recited in each of these independent claims.

It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this filing. Nevertheless, please apply any additional charges or credits to our Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 9, 2009

/Diana DiBerardino/

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